

The



Bulletin

Volume VII • Number 1

October 1991 • Tishri 5752

KJA

1495 - 42nd Avenue
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❖ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ❖

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our wishes for a happy new year 5752. We hope it will be a year of health, happiness and prosperity.

Looking back on our accomplishments for the year 5751, we see a year of growth and commitment. Some of these occasions were in the chronological order as follows:

1. Purim Party
2. Obtaining permit for our synagogue
3. Camp 7-11 years old in North Tahoe
4. Camp 12-17 years old in Yosemite
5. Picnic
6. Wedding of Simone Matsliah & Joseph Darwish of France officiated by Joe Pessah at the park.
7. Establishing link with Poland and the USSR.
8. Working together with the Intellectual Karaite Jews, I.K.J. of France and publishing their quarterly letter.
9. Having the International Conference in Israel with representatives from I.K.J. of France, K.J.A. and the Karaite Board of Israel.
10. Extending an invitation to Anna Sulimowicz, a Karaite assistant professor at the University of Warsaw in Poland, to talk on the status of the Karaite Community in Poland and most importantly their traditions.
11. Vacation retreat for single men and women.

All of these activities would not have been possible without the support given by so many people. You gave from your hearts and from your strong beliefs that we have hope for a flourishing community.

I ask for your continued support not only financially, but spiritually, morally and emotionally.

Joseph Moussa,
KJA President

❖ IN THE NEWS ❖

GENIZAH FRAGMENTS, OCTOBER, 1991

Dr. Stefan C. Reif, director of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit at Cambridge University, England was introduced to the KJA Community by Doris Mourad of Los Altos Hills, California and since then, he has been in touch with KJA by sending the Genizah Fragments Newsletter. The Karaite collection from Cairo Synagogue has attracted the attention of many scholars as revealed in the following article.

I studied Arabic at school in Israel and obtained a B.A. in Hebrew Literature and Bible at the Hebrew University, while also taking extramural Arabic courses. My intention in coming to Cambridge was to combine my growing interests in Hebrew and Arabic and to concentrate on the period of creative and fruitful interaction between the two cultures in the Middle Ages. Studying in Cambridge provided an opportunity not only of seeing the original manuscripts and fragments, but also of receiving the generous help and personal guidance of the scholars of the Genizah Research Unit. It was they who introduced me to the basic bibliographical and scientific tools of Genizah research. During my M. Phil. studies, I became aware that the Genizah contains a large portion of

anonymous Arabic Bible translations and I was encouraged to continue my studies as a doctoral student at the Oriental faculty researching these Arabic translations. For this purpose, I was awarded a Harold Hyam Wingate scholarship. The aim of my dissertation, being supervised by Dr. Geoffrey Khan, of the Genizah Research Unit, is the linguistic and literary study of medieval Arabic Bible translations produced by Jews. The most influential of these was prepared in the first half of the tenth century by the celebrated philosopher and exegete, Saadya ben Joseph al-Fayyumi Gaon (882-942 C.E.). Known as the Tafsir, it eventually acquired the status of the standard Arabic version of the Bible among Arabic speaking Jews and even came to be in synagogal worship.

SCIENTIFIC TOOLS OF GENIZAH RESEARCH

By Meira Polliack

The Cairo Genizah has been instrumental in the recovery of much of his longer interpretation of the Bible, known as the Sharh. It also contains many fragments of his Tafsir that are older and more accurate than existing codices. The Karaite scholars of the tenth and eleventh centuries were also occupied with the study and translation of the Hebrew Bible. Unlike Saady's Tafsir, their work gradually went out of use and now survives only in manuscript form, especially in the Karaite collection of the British Library. The study of this relatively uninvestigated corpus is central to my thesis. The two great Karaite Bible translators and exegetes to emerge in that period were Yefet ben 'Eli, active in the second half of the tenth century, and Yeshu'ah ben Judah, who flourished a hundred years later. Between them, they represent the written manifestation of a unique and innovative translation activity that formed an integral part of the golden age of Karaite Bible study. It is of considerable interest that these major scholars, and their Karaite

contemporaries who engaged in such study, are associated with a school of learning that operated in Jerusalem during the three consecutive generations between Yefet and Yeshu'ah. The detailed analysis of the interpretative methodology of these translators, studied comparatively with that of Saadya, will bring about a fuller

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understanding of the role played by the Karaite academic center in Jerusalem. It will also illuminate the didactic process employed and clarify the particular function of translation in the general context of Bible exegesis.

Continued on page 4

APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION

1. **Elie Massouda** of San Francisco: Brought a Sepher Torah from Israel.
2. **Abraham Menashe** of New York: Dedicating his time & talents as a publisher for the bulletin.
3. **David Elichaa** of San Diego: Took upon himself to do the family tree. Started initially with the Lichaa family, now extending to all the Karaite community. What a task! This project is very important because in another generation, that information will be lost forever.
4. **Benoit Massuda** of New York and **Morad El-Kodsi** of New York: Established contact with the Karaites in Russia and Poland Special thanks to all of you and to so many others who have not gone unnoticed.

Joseph Moussa

KJA President

SEPHER TORAH



At a celebration at the opening of the first Karaite Synagogue in the United States, Mr. Elie Massouda undertook the mission of going to Israel and brought with him this Sepher Torah

❖ COMMENT/OPINION/INSIGHT ❖

By Bob Allen

My name is Bob Allen. My parents are Victor (Amin) Allen and Laila Abdallah. My father's parents are Joseph Ovadia [(chazzanin Egypt) Rabbona yirhamu)] and Fortune Marzouk. My mother's parents are Abraham Abdallah (Rabbona yirhamu) and Alice Ibrahim. I was born in Providence, RI. I was inspired by my grandfather Joseph to learn more about G-d and His connection to the Jewish people. I attended the Jewish theological Seminary of America in 1985 to learn and to be able to teach.

Ideas on Tefilah (Prayer)

Prayer is important because through prayer, we can put ourselves in touch with our creator. Prayer can be a time out period within our busy day. It can be a time where we take a few moments to acknowledge G-d as creator of the world.

During the time of the temple (about 1,000 B.C.E. - 70 C.E.), sacrifices were offered twice a day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon/evening. After the temple was destroyed in 70 C.E., a way was sought to symbolically offer sacrifices in place of the two that took place daily at the temple. In place of these sacrifices, prayers came to be instituted.

We must take care to try to make our prayers meaningful. In Isaiah 1:11-20, the people are being rebuked for their sacrifices and prayers. The people had been doing evil in the sight of the Lord. Their obligations (drink offerings) were given in vain. There was no meaning behind them. G-d also says that their hands are full of blood. Perhaps in going against G-d's laws, it was as if the people were shedding blood. G-d adds that if only the people will act justly that though their sins be red as scarlet that they should be made as white as snow. Thus let us act justly and with loving kindness that our prayers may be acceptable unto G-d. Let us pray with our hearts that our prayers that go before G-d may find favor with him.

A broken heart, the Lord will not scorn.

An offering of the Lord is a humble spirit. A broken and downcast heart, the Lord will not scorn. Psalm 51:17

It is important that when we pray, that we offer some words and feelings of our own to G-d. We must also strive for a feeling of humility and gratitude to G-d for all His blessings.

David Elie Daoud Elichaa
634 Eighth St. #4
Imperial Beach, CA 91932
Tel. (619) 429-1269

MAY WE SOLVE TOMORROW'S PROBLEM TODAY?

I don't think I need to explain what the problem is looking at the puzzle on page 23. What I can do with your cooperation is to try to solve that puzzle.

While I am still trying to finish our Family Tree "LICHAA" I found out that over 40 families are connected to our family. That is when I decided to contribute all my efforts to do something profitable for all the community. I have in the past contacted many of our family to get more information and that effort is not lost. I am taking this opportunity to express my gratitude to all who answered my letters and specially those who cooperated with me and gave me moral support. Now with the help of a program and a computer we can keep records of the connection between all the families. Make Pedigree Chart, keep records of names changed, Family Group record, etc... and most important leave records for our future generations. We are lucky we still have some around us that can give us some information about our parents. How many of us can still remember some of our parents? Now what about the new generation? I am devoting my time for a good cause, hundreds of hours for the community, will you devote One hour for your Family?

Now I need some volunteer from the large families to contact their close relatives and make sure they have mailed the answers, since they are a link of a long chain. I wish I could meet with every family and help but unfortunately I can't. For your information you can write the name of any person related to a Karaite. Please answer the questions even if that person has passed away. One useful idea, try to write the name of every person in your family on the back of the pictures you have at home. I welcome any person that is visiting the San Diego area to stop by our home and see what I have done so far.

A separate leaflet has been incorporated with the bulletin. I urge you to take the time to fill it in and mail it to me at the address above.

I thank each and every one of you for your cooperation, and hopefully I will be able to finish that project.

Sincerely,

THE FIRST ANNUAL KJA VACATION

By Habib Lichaa

The die was cast, the scene was set, and the clock was ticking, and all who signed up had some form of reservation of why they were going to the vacation. Motives varied from my mom made me, to I am looking for that someone special or I just like the itinerary. But how good could it be with fifty five people you don't quite know. What started out as a few pebbles from a mountain, soon turned into an avalanche of people. The pebble count at the start was fifteen, the final avalanche count 56, yes, were fruitful and multiplied.

There was a lot of questions about the vacation, one of the biggest seem to be will it be a successful or will it be the first and last annual vacation. The answer was simply so successful beyond any expectations or imagination. The demand to have a second annual is already being greeted with open arms. So if your interested in next year, drop Remy a letter or phone call.

The next important question that kept going through my mind was why was it so successful? Was it the place? Was it the food? Perhaps the activities? The place was Tahoe Donner, or North Tahoe. A peaceful community, surrounded by beautiful mountain sand trees, away from the hustle of the city. The food was traditional middle eastern cuisine prepared by the best chefs of the community, Sarina Pessah and Rachel Pessah. I and all the vacationers would like to express our greatest thanks to both of them for the great meals and time they put in. The activities offered a lot of time at the beach, swimming, jet skiing, water-skiing and a lot more. Plus the most famous of activities, one that was talked about through out the week and is still talked about till this very day, the very famous STAR GAZING!!! I think the main reason was a combination of all these reasons plus the most important ingredient, the ENTHUSIASM of all the participants. They, the vacationers, made the week simply electrifying, filling the room with tremendous energy, laughter and friendship. I simply call it "MAGIC".



First Row: Mike Dabbah, Julie Carmona. 2nd Row (Left to right): Sara Adjmi, Robert Allen, Kamy Moran, Jacques Pessah, Debbie Farag, Joe Habib, Jenny Dubner, Anna Sulimowicz, Mona Aslan, Morris Moussa, Deborah Levy. 3rd Row (Left to right): Linda Rasson, David Abdel Ouahed, Jacob Marzouk, Alfred Tahan, Habib Lichaa, Remy Pessah, Joe Moussa, Elie Vardi, Esther Cohen, Amir Levy, Zaki El Koadi, Danny Allen, Sam Saddik, Benjamin Lichaa, Abraham Menashe. 4th Row (Left to right): Mona Levy, Rachel Adams, Miriam Pessah, Janet Mourad, Simone Tahan, Jackie Levy, Joe Marzouk, Gina Marzouk, Danny Vardi, Sallie Marzouk, Eliahu Pessah, Audria Gazzar, Limor Farag, Joyce Messafi, 5th Row (left to right): Elie Messafi, Robert Licha, Alfred Barouk, Maurice Masliah, Jack Ovadia, Allen Licha, Shulamit Tahan

People met people whose religion, language and culture was similar in background to their own. This MAGIC feeling made people comfortable around each other. This may not have been RAS EL BAR but it came close.

The purpose of the vacation was for people to meet people and get to know people in a situation where you could talk and play and get to know each other comfortably. The purpose was filled above and beyond expectations on all levels. "MAGIC" sparks flew, friendships were made, memories of the vacation will be talked about for generations to come. Mission Accomplished. I would like to thank every one who came this year and I hope to see you next year. Please keep in touch, and always remember "CABIN THREE IS THE PLACE TO BE"

DARWISH WEDDING



What a romance! A wedding held during the KJA Annual picnic at Covington Park in Los Altos and attended by all the friends and the family of the community. It all started when the groom, Joseph Darwish and Simone Matsliah, both of France, wanted to celebrate their union together among their family where Joseph's sister Regina resides in San Francisco and their brother Shabtai from Israel was visiting San Francisco. A family reunion from three different continents brought the three brothers and sister together to have Joe Pessah officiate the Sheva Berakhot. While in Israel, Joe got them the Karaite Ketubah, which was signed by ten witnesses.

What started with just the Sheva Berakhot ended up like a real wedding ceremony with a bridal veil, flower girls, over a hundred attendees, cake, Jordan almonds, champagne ...

The couple had also planned their wedding reception in France where the bride's parents will give them their blessings.

PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR VACATION

There were three vacation/camps in the summer of 1991. They were all so successful that requests for next summer are already pouring. To satisfy most ages, the following camps have been planned:

The 7 - 11 year old camp in Southern California

Date: Tentatively June 28 - July 5, 1992

or: June 21 - June 28, 1992

The 12 - 15 year old camp at Tahoe Donner:

Date: July 5 to July 12, 1992

The 16 - 20 year old camp at Tahoe Donner:

Date: August 10 to August 16, 1992

Vacation Retreat for Singles

Date: August 16 to August 23, 1992

Of course, these camps/vacations would not have taken place without all the help of the volunteers. It is the MOST REWARDING experience to be able to help and see the vacationers so grateful and happy.

We need volunteers as coordinators, cooks, religious trainers.

If you can help out in any of the above camps, please call Remy Pessah at 415-941-2115 or Esther Ovadia at 310-540-4496.

KJA SEVEN TO ELEVEN CAMP

It was an outstanding success. We all came away with blasting friendship and feeling of togetherness and pride.

We celebrated Shabbat and Joshua's birthday. We held morning and evening prayers and all the children learned a minimum of four prayers which my children still remember.

It was not all work, we had lots of fun. We went fishing, pony riding, swimming. We held a sand castle contest. We went to Circus-Circus, played Pictionary and much, more.

I enjoyed myself so much that I volunteered to organize next year's KJA 7-11 camp. I hope I'll see you next year at the camp. For more information, suggestions, help, please contact me:

Esther Ovadia, 5626 Bartlett Dr., Torrance, CA 90503. Telephone: 310-540-4496

❖ CAMPS 1991 ❖

*711 CAMP GROUP AT TAHOE:
Debra Ovadia on the horse, coached by her mother Esther Ovadia.*



*711 CAMP GROUP AT TAHOE: At the Shabbat Dinner
Table From left to right: Nora Massuda, Avi Moussa, Chantal
Marsa, Lilly Lichaa, Aaron Rasson, Nora Hartmann, Oreet
Moussa, Michael Ovadia, Elana Moussa, Monica Duggal, Joshua
Pessah, Debra Ovadia, Aaron Ovadia*





YOSEMITE: First Row (Left to right): Joshua Marzwell, Elie Moussa, Walter Marzouk, Joe Pessah, Ray Marzouk, Jacob Moussa. Second Row (left to right): Victor Khedr, Aaron Marzwell, Brenda Gazzar, Ophira Farag, Miranda Lisha, Lorna Lisha, Sheila El Gamil, Desiree Marzwell, David Pessah. Third Row (left to right): Mike Marzouk, Joe Allen, Michael Khedr, Jacob Pessah, Mike Abel, Shawn Lichaa, Benjamin Ovadia.



711 CAMP GROUP AT TAHOE: First Row (Left to right): Shawn Rasson, Elana Moussa, Oreet Moussa, Joel Massuda, Avi Moussa, Nora Massuda, Chantal Marsaa. Second Row: Michael Ovadia, Lilly Lichaa, Ronit Ovadia, Debra Ovadia, Aaron Ovadia, Monica Duggal, Isabelle Khedr, Amy Pessah, Nora Hartmann. Last Row: Joseph Rasson, Joshua Pessah, Maurice Pessah, Joe Pessah, David Pessah, Joe Ovadia

❖ FROM THE MAILBAG ❖

MOURAD EL-KODSI 716/334-2413

Friday August 16, 1991

The Karaite Jews of America

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

It gives me a great pleasure and honor to submit to you this very concise report on the trip to Russia, Poland, and Lithuania carried on by Mr. Benoit Massuda from the U.S.A., an effective organizer of the trip, Mr. Ovadia Gamil from Israel, member of the Higher Committee of the Karaite Community in Israel, and a well informed person in the Karaite faith, Mr. Mourad El-Kodsi from the U.S.A., public relation and liaison between the Karaite communities in the world.

The report includes also a word on the Karaite convention that took place on July 24 - 25, 1991 in Ramla, Israel.

In the very near future, I will have the privilege to submit to you a detailed report on our findings in the places we visited and suggestions on actions to be taken.

Also after consulting with Joe Pessah and Benoit Massuda, I will submit to you, and to the Higher Committee of the Karaite in Israel a full report on the aforementioned convention with our comments and suggestions.

I hope and pray that this will mark the beginning of a team work and efforts that will benefit all the Karaites of the world.

With my best wishes and regards to you all.

Truly yours

Mourad El-Kodsi

FACT FINDING COMMITTEE

Trip Summary Report of Northern Europe and Russia

Purpose of Trip:

- a. Gather facts.
- b. Study alternative actions.
- c. Make recommendations for future actions.

Intellectual Karaite Jews
3, Avenue de Corinthe
13006 MARSEILLE, FRANCE
10 June 1991-10 Sivane 5751

Dear friends,

We are sorry to write to you so late but the previous international situation obliged us to postpone our projects. Nevertheless, we hope that you have received our message by the KJA bulletin. We now want to give you more information on what we have planned for this summer.

We are happy to tell you that in the week of July 24 to 30, 1991, at the synagogue of Ramla in Israel, a reception will be given for the adolescents who were in the process of learning the Torah during the summer. During this reception I.K.J. will deliver diplomas and will offer student's grants for those who will continue in this path.

On the same occasion, we will organize a meeting for the unmarried people with a great Shabbat gathering on July 27, 1991 with prayers, Seuda and a conference given by a rabbi. Following this after "Motse Shabbat" there will be a dancing party. Depending on the number of foreign participants a tour of Israel will be organized. (For more information please call us as soon as possible).

We want to inform you that the community of Israel is ready to take completely charge of any teenager who wants to be trained in religious study for 1 or 2 weeks during his vacation. Don't hesitate, send our children for they would be able to learn about their origins, their religion and their customs. We have decided with the agreement of the official board committee of Israel presided by Mr. Y. ELGAMIL and by the great Rabbi E. Marzouk to launch a campaign of subscription for financing several programs vital for the continuation of our community:

1. Operation one tree for each member of our community. A tree will be planted in a special place for each subscriber. One tree \$100, A small grove (5 trees) \$500. A big grove (10 trees), \$1000.

If a person wants to honor his family, it is recommended to offer a tree for each person of his family.

2. Operation commemorative plaques. In souvenir of a departed relative or friend, plaques will be affixed on a souvenir wall in the synagogue. From \$50 unlimited

3. Operation finance of Torah study of a student. For those who want to take charge of the cost of a period of study for a student: 1 Month, \$300. 6 Month \$1800. 1 Year, \$3600

As we told you in our first letters, our association is born to favor the religious education and to reinforce our institution. We are a non profit association and we will give our checks to the community of Israel to be used integrally and exclusively to help and to support people who want to invest themselves in our religion (religious training, history research, student grants, yeshiva ...)

Please make out your check to: Universal Karaite Judaism in Israel and send them to I.K.J. as soon as possible.

I.K.J. undertakes to verify their use in the objective that we have already designated. You will receive a receipt of your subscription. "Tiskoul le Mitzvot"

With the help of G-d we are on the right path.

The board represented by:

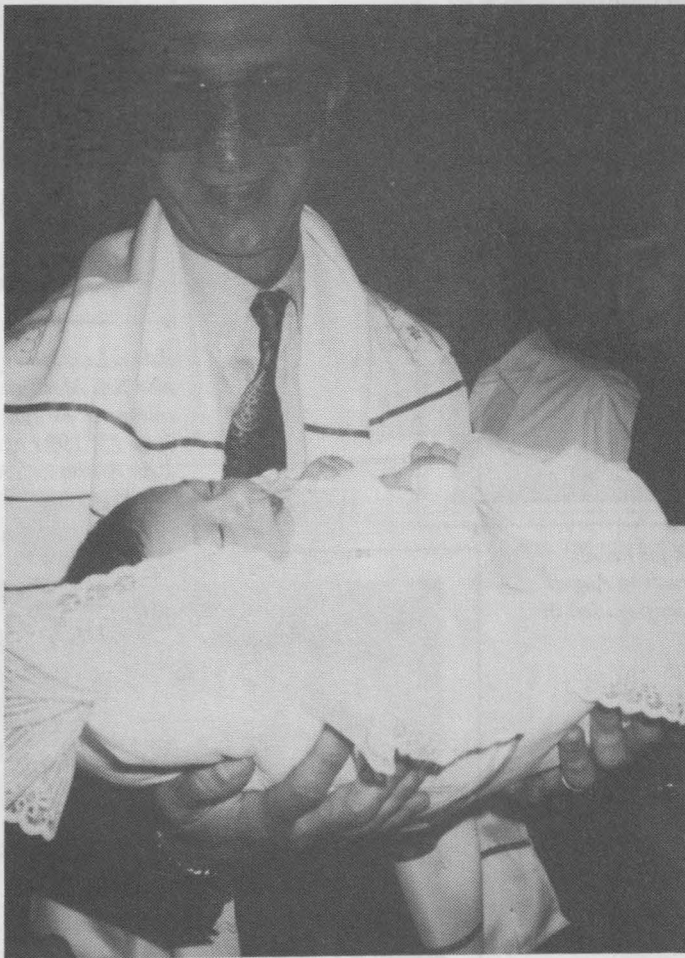
Dr. A. Siahou, Dr. D. Siahou, Mr. M. Levy, Mr. L. Wahed.

NB: From the July 24 to 30, 1991 there will be a convention between the leader of each community. For the people who are interested, please contact us as soon as possible.

❖ BRIT MILAH ❖



Benjamin Joseph Pessah, born to Kim & Henry Pessah on May 11, 1991. Brit Milah held on May 18, 1991.

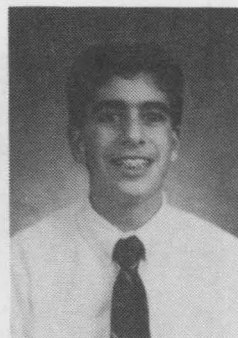


*Zachary Leon Darwish, born to Shirley & David Darwish on April 27, 1991.
Brit Milah held on Monday May 6, 1991.*

❖ BAR - BAT MITZVAH ❖



*Jacob Pessah, son of Remy and Joe Pessah.
Jacob celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on August
3, 1991 at Peninsula Sinai Congregation in
Foster City, California.*



*Adam Leon, son of Henriette
and Ben Mordecai. Adam
celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on
June 15, 1991 at Congregation
Beth Achim in Southfield,
Michigan.*



*Victor Khedr, son of Marc & Bella Khedr.
Victor celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on July 6,
1991 at Peninsula Sinai Congregation in
Foster City, California.*



Mark Lichaa, son of Flore & Amin Lichaa of Maryland.

Jason Sutherland, son of Sheila & Kent Sutherland. Jason celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on July 13, 1991 at Congregation BethAm in Los Altos Hills, California.

❖ WEDDINGS ❖



Mazal Tov to Marcelle Abell and Andrew Rosen. The happy couple joined their lives together at The Kennedy Warren Ballroom in Washington D.C. on Sunday September 1, 1991. Marcelle is the daughter of Nellie and David Abell of Maryland. Andrew is the son of Diana and William Rosen.



Nancy and Steven Shatz were married in a lovely ceremony on Sunday, May 29, 1991 at Congregation Sherith Israel in San Francisco. Nancy is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dubner. Steven is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Roger Shatz.

❖ BULLETIN BOARD ❖

BAR & BAT MITZVAH

› Abraham Bigio, son of Raphael and Gisele Bigio celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 1, 1991 at Congregation Beth Tikvah in Montreal, Canada.

GRADUATIONS

› Ray Marzouk graduated from high school with honors. He was accepted at UCLA. Ray is the son of Joyce & Walter Marzouk of Seal Beach, California. Mazal Tov Ray!

› Brenda Gazzar graduated from high school with honors and received several scholarships. She decided to spend one year in Spain before joining the University of Irvine in Southern California. Brenda is the daughter of Albert & Amy Gazzar of Barstow.

› Joe Ovadia, son of Feryal & Alan Ovadia, graduated from Cal State Long Beach with a BS in Civil Engineering in June 1991. He works for Orange County.

› Morris Moussa, son of Sarine & Elie Moussa, graduated from the University of California Davis with a BA degree in International Relation in June 1991.

› Josette Levi, daughter of Dr. Alan & Vilma Levi of Chesterfield, Missouri, graduated from the University of Flagstaff, Arizona with a bachelor's degree in Psychology in June 1991.

CORRECTION

› Last Bulletin, Volume VI, Number 3, We mistakenly wrote "Fortunee Ovadia," should be "Feryal Ovadia." The IN MEMORIAM should read: With great sorrow on the loss of Mrs. Aziza Moussa, wife of the late Shalom Moussa Pessah. Mother of Moshe, David, Elie, Joseph and Jacob Moussa, Feryal Ovadia and Bella Kheder.

MAY WE SOLVE TOMORROW'S PROBLEM TODAY?

Albert Ibrahim Abraham	Benoit Baroukh Ben	David Daoud Doudou	Mourad Mordoch Mordecai	Isaac Zaki Itzhak
Lichaa Elichaa Leshia	Abdelwahed Wahed Ouahed	Abdalah Ovadia Abe	Shammas Sciammas Shemesh	Marzouk Marzwell
Masliah Saleh Matsliah	Roger Farag Yeshoua	Shamuel Shemuel Shamuel	Morris Maurice Moussa	Fortunee Mazal Massad
Jacob Yaacoub Jacques	Joseph Youssef Joe	Gamil Vardi El Gamil	Nabil Neville Nabi	Fred Alfred Farid

